some of the land in Railways custody which has not been in use for the last several years had to be transferred to the nodal agency of the project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nodal agency for the said project has made any request to the Railways to transfer the said land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) It is proposed to develop an approach road from Kothandaramasamy Temple to Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram island to help in implementation and operation of the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project. Land area to the extent of 91.215 hectares under the ownership of Southern Railway is required for the purpose. The nodal agency, *i.e.*, Tuticorin Port Trust, has requested the Southern Railway, Madurai to transfer the said land for the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project.

Rest Houses along the National Highways

3839. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rest houses that have been constructed along National Highways in the country during the last three years;

(b) the location of rest houses already constructed/proposed to be constructed in the country State-wise; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government to use these rest houses by the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) During the last three years, Government of India has not constructed/ proposed any rest houses along National Highways.

(c) The Ministry has issued guidelines for use of rest houses by public on payment of prescribed fee subject to the following order of preference for occupation:

(i) Ministers; Central & State, Speakers, Chairman and Deputy Speakers of Legislatures.

(ii) Government Officers (Gazetted) on inspection of the National Highways and District Collectors with their jurisdiction;

(iii) Government Officers (Gazetted) on duty, Heads of Hills Parishad and Panchyat Samithies and High Officers of Public Undertakings on official duty;

(iv) Members of Legislatures;

(v) Government Officers (Non-gazetted) on duty

(vi) Government Officers on duty;

(vii) General public

Roads under BOT Scheme in Tamil Nadu

3840. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads that would be construced under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme in Tamil Nadu by his Ministry; and

(b) the time frame for the completion of the North-South corridor section in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Three stretches on NH-7 and two stretches on NH-47 in the State of Tamil Nadu are proposed to be four laned on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under the North-South Corridor. In addition, steps have been initiated for preparation of Detailed Projects Reports (DPR) for twelve stretches identified in the State of Tamil Nadu for four laning on BOT basis under National Highways Development Projects (NHDP) Phase III.

(b) The likely date for completion of North-South Corridor in Tamil Nadu is December 2007.

Road Proposals for Uttar Pradesh

†3841. SHRI KAMALAKHTAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals concerning several schemes related to transport sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.